

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
2
3
4
5
6

7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 CATALIN PAMFILE,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL,

14 Defendant.

CASE NO. C18-0985-JCC

ORDER

15 This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff's motion to seal (Dkt. No. 2) exhibits
16 attached to his application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and his complaint (Dkt. Nos. 1-3-1-7; 7-
17 2-7-6). The Court hereby GRANTS the motion for the reasons explained herein.

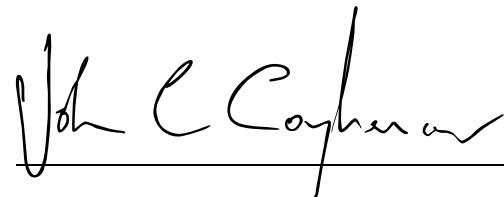
18 The Court starts from the position that “[t]here is a strong presumption of public access to
19 [its] files.” W.D. Wash. Local Civ. R. 5(g). This presumption applies particularly to “dispositive
20 pleadings,” which include exhibits attached to a complaint. *Kamakana v. City and Cty. of
Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1179 (9th Cir. 2006). To overcome this presumption, there must be a
21 “compelling reason” for sealing that is “sufficient to outweigh the public’s interest in
22 disclosure.” *Id.* Plaintiff seeks to maintain under seal voluminous medical records that he alleges
23 support his claim for relief. (Dkt. No. 2.) The Court has since dismissed Plaintiff’s complaint.
24 (Dkt No. 8.) Nonetheless, Plaintiff’s medical records contain highly personal information, the
25 disclosure of which would be harmful. In contrast, the public has no compelling interest in the
26

1 medical records, particularly since Plaintiff's complaint has been dismissed. Therefore, Plaintiff
2 has demonstrated a compelling reason to seal the records that outweighs the public's interest in
3 their disclosure.

4 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff's motion (Dkt. No. 2) is GRANTED. The Clerk is
5 DIRECTED to maintain Dkt. Nos. 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5, and 7-6 under seal.

6 DATED this 25th day of July 2018.

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26



John C. Coughenour
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE